In the Claims:

Claims 1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A hearing instrument system comprising:

a hearing instrument having programming;

a wireless remote control configured to emit a mechanically generated acoustical pulse, wherein the programming of the hearing instrument is configured to interpret the acoustical pulse to program the hearing instrument, and wherein the programming is disabled when a calculated ~~input~~ pulse-to-noise ratio does not exceed a predetermined threshold.

15. (Original) The hearing instrument system of claim 14, wherein the programming of the hearing instrument includes one of a decoding circuit and decoding software for interpreting the acoustical pulse generated by the remote control.

16. (Original) The hearing instrument system of claim 15, wherein the decoding circuit or decoding software includes a high pass filter for removing interfering energy, a full-wave rectifier followed by a low-pass filter for transforming the acoustical pulses into base band pulses, and programming for measuring the time spacing of the acoustical pulses to verify that the received pulses match a pulse pattern associated with a command for the hearing instrument.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Previously presented) A hearing instrument system comprising:

a hearing instrument having programming;

a wireless remote control configured to emit a mechanically generated acoustical pulse, wherein the programming of the hearing instrument is configured to interpret the acoustical pulse to program the hearing instrument and the programming of the hearing instrument includes one of a decoding circuit and decoding software for interpreting the acoustical pulse generated by the remote control, with the decoding circuit or decoding software including a high pass filter for removing interfering energy, a full-wave rectifier followed by a low-pass filter for transforming the acoustical pulses into base band pulses, and programming for measuring the time spacing of

the acoustical pulses to verify that the received pulses match a pulse pattern associated with a command for the hearing instrument; and

further comprising programming for disabling the decoding circuit,

wherein the programming for disabling the decoding circuit comprises means for calculating a pulse-to-noise ratio at the output of the low-pass filter to determine whether the pulse-to-noise ratio exceeds a predetermined threshold.

19. (Previously presented) The hearing instrument system of claim 18, wherein the wireless remote control is passive and the hearing instrument includes a built-in microphone, with the microphone being configured to accept the acoustical pulses from the remote control to effect control of the hearing instrument.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a hearing instrument comprising:

generating a remote acoustical pulse;

receiving the acoustical pulse through a microphone of a hearing instrument;

decoding the acoustical pulse in a program of a hearing instrument;

controlling the hearing instrument based upon the decoded acoustical pulse, and

disabling the decoding step based upon the calculation of a pulse-to-noise ratio ~~an input~~ and comparison of that input to a predetermined threshold in order to determine whether a false triggering has occurred.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the decoding the pulse step comprises utilizing a decoding circuit or decoding software programmed in the hearing instrument and the disabling the decoding step comprises disabling the decoding circuit or decoding software.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the decoding the pulse step further comprises high-pass filtering the acoustical pulses received by the microphone to remove interfering energy, full-wave rectifying and low-pass filtering the acoustical pulses into base band pulses, and determining the time spacing of the band pulses to verify that the band pulses match a pattern associated with a command for the hearing instrument.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 20,~~ A method for controlling a hearing instrument comprising:

generating a remote acoustical pulse;

receiving the acoustical pulse through a microphone of a hearing instrument;

decoding the acoustical pulse in a program of a hearing instrument;

controlling the hearing instrument based upon the decoded acoustical pulse, and

disabling the decoding step based upon the calculation of an input and comparison of that input to a predetermined threshold in order to determine whether a false triggering has occurred,

wherein the disabling the decoding step comprises determining that a false triggering has occurred, with the false triggering being determined by calculating a pulse-to-noise ratio and comparing the ratio to a predetermined threshold such that when the threshold is exceeded, the decoding step is disabled.

25. (Currently Amended) The hearing instrument system of claim [[14]] 18, wherein the wireless remote control comprises:

a housing; and

a mechanism associated with the housing for mechanically generating the acoustical pulse for effecting control of the hearing instrument.

26. (Previously presented) The hearing instrument system of claim 25, wherein the mechanism is a finger actuatable member coupled to a reed.

27. (Previously presented) The hearing instrument system of claim 25, wherein the mechanism comprises at least one cogged wheel that is rotationally positioned in the housing and at least one reed cantilevered to contact each cogged wheel, wherein each coupled wheel and reed are together configured to generate an acoustical pulse upon rotation of the wheel against the reed.

28. (Previously presented) The hearing instrument system of claim 27, wherein the reed is fixed to a surface inside the housing; and

the at least one cogged wheel comprises a plurality of cogged wheels, with each wheel being coupled to the at least one reed for generating a unique acoustical pulse associated with each of the plurality of cogged wheels.

29. (Previously presented) The hearing instrument system of claim 28, wherein the plurality of cogged wheels includes at least a first cogged wheel, a second cogged wheel, and a third cogged wheel, with the first cogged wheel having a first spacing of cogs on the wheel, the second cogged wheel having a second spacing of cogs on the wheel, and the third cogged wheel having a third spacing of cogs on the wheel, with the first, second, and third spacings each being different from one another.

30. (Previously presented) The hearing instrument system of claim 25, wherein the mechanism comprises at least one sliding push button having a surface treatment coupled to a reed for generating an acoustical pulse upon movement of the push button.

31. (Previously presented) The hearing instrument system of claim 30, wherein the sliding push button comprises a bar-like member and the surface treatment comprises a plurality of cogs, and the reed is cantilevered in the housing so that one end of the reed is associated with the cogs for vibratory movement relative thereto.

32. (Previously presented) The remote control of claim 31, wherein the at least one sliding push button comprises a plurality of push buttons.

33. (Previously presented) The remote control of claim 25, further comprising indicia on the housing.